

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	49843	Agenda Number	6.
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Meeting Date:	9/17/2015	Department:	Austin Energy
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Subject

Authorize negotiation and execution of a 12-month agreement with THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS on behalf of the Clean Energy Incubator, a program of the Austin Technology Incubator, for mutual assistance in the clean energy field, in an amount not to exceed \$195,000.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding is contingent upon approval of the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Operating Budget of Austin Energy.

Fiscal Note

There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

Purchasing Language:

Prior Council Action:

For More Information: Jeff Vice, Director, Local Government Issues (512) 322-6087; Kurt Stogdill, Manager, Green Building and Sustainability (512) 322-6510; Karl Popham, Manager, Electric Vehicles & Emerging Technologies (512) 322-6005.

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action: August 17, 2015 – Unanimously approved by the Electric Utility Commission on a vote of 11-0. August 18, 2015 – Unanimously approved by the Resource Management Commission on a vote of 9-0.

MBE / WBE:

Related Items:

Additional Backup Information

The Clean Energy Incubator is a program of the Austin Technology Incubator at The University of Texas at Austin that is well situated to help Austin Energy achieve its clean energy strategic goals and to assist in moving Austin forward towards becoming the nation’s clean energy capital. Austin Energy intends to assist the Clean Energy Incubator in its mutually-beneficial clean energy goals by providing financial support to quantify and track the economic impact of clean technology, support energy leadership via a fellowship program, increase Clean Energy Incubator’s value to its member companies, and help expand the role of Austin as the global headquarters of choice for clean energy thought leadership and investment.

This will be the sixth agreement between the Clean Energy Incubator and Austin Energy, with the original agreement dating back to Fiscal Year 2008. The Clean Energy Incubator develops local companies in the clean energy space and identifies candidates for beta testing and pilot projects within the emerging technology space.

The Clean Energy Incubator is a leading voice in the community discussion around clean technologies. Between 2010 and 2014, the Clean Energy Incubator has created over 500 new jobs, graduated 24 companies which had a local economic impact of \$70 million, successfully relocated seven other companies to Austin, and helped raise \$200 million in funding for clean energy companies.

Austin Energy has benefited from the partnership with the Clean Energy Incubator in many ways. Austin Energy is able to negotiate future benefits with companies in incubation. This has included research reports, demonstration projects, or commitments to “pay it forward” to fund subsequent incubation sponsorships on behalf of Austin Energy if the company meets a given funding milestone. For example, one company is demonstrating a distributed energy resource “middle-ware” application that looks to integrate solar, storage and other customer-sited resources through a pilot at Pecan Street Inc. Austin Energy has struck up relationships with companies that have subsequently become key members of grant application teams. Austin Technology Incubator students have worked on research projects on behalf of Austin Energy. A myriad of community benefits related to the development and promotion of clean energy technologies and companies locally include subsequent investment in those companies and job creation.